

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3475

NODIS STADIS////////////////

IO FOR ASST SECY MAYNES AND PALMER ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO
SUBJECT: U.S. DECISION ON ILO MEMBERSHIP

1. IF WE DECIDE TO REMAIN IN ILO, THE ROLE OF AMERICAN EMPLOYEES IN THE SECRETARIAT WILL BE IMPORTANT IN SUPPORTING THE MOMENTUM OF OUR POLICY TO RETURN ILO TO ITS CONSTITUTIONAL PURPOSES AND IN IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF A CREAKY, OLD-FASHIONED BUREAUCRACY. WE HAVE BEEN MULLING OVER THE IDEA IN PARA THREE BELOW AND WILL PROBABLY MAKE A DETAILED PROPOSAL LATER IN AN OPEN CABLE. AT THIS TIME, WE WOULD LIKE YOUR REACTION AND IF YOU THINK DESIRABLE, A SOUNDING FROM LANE KIRLAND (FYI: WE UNDERSTAND KIRLAND HAS GIVEN SOME THOUGHT TO POST-NOVEMBER PERSONNEL CHANGES, BUT IN A DIFFERENT CONTEXT FROM US).

2. ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD FACES TWO CRUCIAL OBJECTIVES: THE FIRST IS TO KEEP THE U.S. IN ILO AND THE SECOND IS TO SECURE HIS REELECTION AS DG AT THE GOVERNING BODY SESSION IN NOVEMBER OF 1978. AT THIS POINT, HE IS WORKING HARD ON BOTH, AND IT IS PROBABLY FAIR TO SAY THAT, IF HE SOLVES THE FIRST
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PROBLEM, HE WILL HAVE A LEG-UP ON REELECTION. WE ARE INTRIGUED BY THE POSSIBILITIES FOR THE U.S. STEMMING FROM BLANCHARD'S OBJECTIVES.

3. ASSUMING WE DECIDE TO STAY IN ILO, BUT BEFORE WE ANNOUNCE OUR DECISION, IT IS LIKELY THAT BLANCHARD WOULD BE RATHER RECEPTIVE TO U.S. CONDITIONS AND

REQUESTS. WE COULD, FOR INSTANCE, ASK FOR AND PROBABLY GET CERTAIN KEY STAFF POSITIONS WHICH WOULD ALLOW US TO EFFECTIVELY INFLUENCE MANAGEMENT AND PROGRAM DECISIONS IN A WAY WHICH, UP TO NOW, HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE. THE MOST IMPORTANT POST IN THIS CATEGORY IS THE CHIEF OF THE BUREAU OF PROGRAM, BUDGETING AND MANAGEMENT, A D-2 POSITION. THE INCUMBENT'S SAY ON STAFF APPOINTMENTS AND PROGRAM DECISIONS IS SECOND ONLY TO THAT OF THE DG AND ONE OR TWO OF HIS CLOSEST ASSOCIATES; HIS REASSIGNMENT ABROAD OR TO A LESS IMPORTANT POST IN GENEVA WOULD MAKE OUR POLICY OBJECTIVES EASIER TO OBTAIN. WE COULD IDENTIFY OTHER POSITIONS BUT THIS ONE IS BY FAR AT THE TOP OF OUR LIST AND BEST ILLUSTRATES OUR POINT.

4. IF YOU THINK IT DESIRABLE, YOU MIGHT SEEK LANE KIRKLAND'S REACTION TO OUR NOW HYPOTHETICAL IDEA. IF ASSUMES, OF COURSE, THAT THE U.S. WOULD OR COULD NOT FIELD A CANDIDATE TO OPPOSE BLANCHARD; KIRKLAND'S REACTION COULD BE A GAUGE OF HIS REPORTED DISLIKE OF BLANCHARD.SORENSEN

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